DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 351 404 UD 028 907

TITLE A Manual for Implementation of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act: Title VII-B.

INSTITUTION Michigan State Board of Education, Lansing. Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Homeless Youth.

PUB DATE [91]

NOTE 13p.

PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; Affirmative Action; Agency Role; Board of Education Role; Children; *Compensatory Education; *Disadvantaged Youth; Economically Disadvantaged; Elementary Secondary Education; *Equal Education; *Federal Legislation; *Homeless People; *Program Implementation; Public Schools; School Role; State Programs

IDENTIFIERS Amendments; Michigan; *Stewart B McKinney Homeless Assistance Act 1987

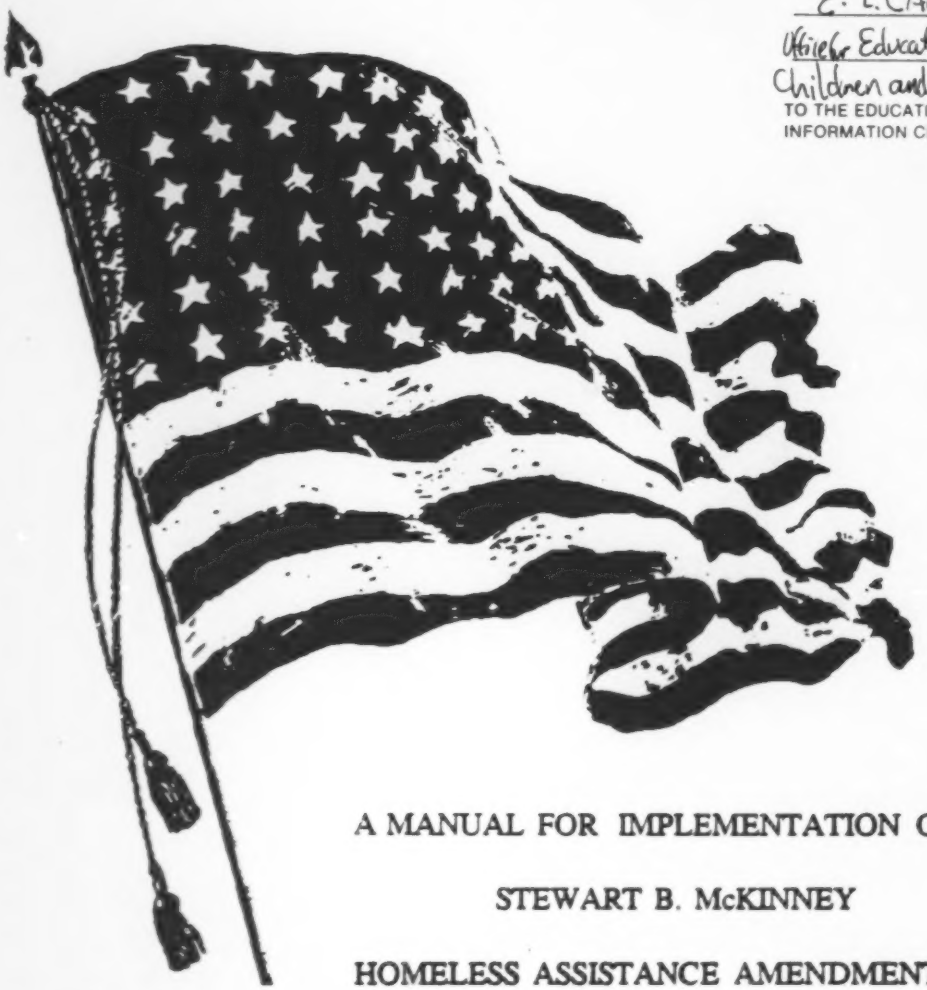
ABSTRACT

This manual is designed to be used to acquaint Michigan State school and community members with provisions and requirements of the Steward B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990. This act authorizes local and intermediate school districts to use competitive funding and to implement innovative laws, policies, and procedures that ensure a free and appropriate education for school-age homeless children and youth. The manual summarizes background information and provides a brief description of the impact of homelessness on the educational and social development of homeless children and homeless youth. The manual provides suggestions for achieving educational success for this population. In addition, the manual details the role of the State Board of Education and that of local and intermediate school boards. (JB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED351404

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
E. L. CAIN
Office for Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."



A MANUAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

STEWART B. McKINNEY

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS ACT

TITLE VII - B

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR THE EDUCATION OF
HOMELESS CHILDREN AND HOMELESS YOUTH

UD028807

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dorothy Beardmore, President	Rochester
Gumecindo Salas, Vice President	East Lansing
Dick DeVos, Secretary	Grand Rapids
Marilyn F. Lundy, Treasurer	Detroit
Cherry H. Jacobus, NASBE Delegate	Grand Rapids
Katherine J. DeGrow	Eaton Rapids
Barbara Roberts Mason	Lansing
Annetta Miller	Huntington Woods

Ex Officio Members

John Engler
Governor

Robert E. Schiller
Superintendent of Public Instruction

This document was printed with 100 percent federal funding under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990. The total printing cost was $1,064.75. A total of 5,600 copies were printed at the cost of $0.21 cents per copy.

FOREWORD

In response to the nation's growing number of children and youth who do not attend school because of homelessness, the United States Congress enacted Title VII-B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990. This legislation authorizes local and intermediate school districts to utilize competitive funding and implement innovative laws, policies, and procedures that ensure a free and appropriate education for school-age homeless children and youth.

The purpose of this document is to provide a succinct manual that can be used to acquaint members of the school and community with provisions and requirements of the McKinney Act. This manual summarizes background information and provides a brief description of the impact of homelessness on the educational and social development of homeless children and homeless youth. While providing suggestions for achieving educational success, the manual also details the role of the State Board of Education and that of local and intermediate school boards.

I encourage school board members and superintendents to disseminate this information and implement Title VII-B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 in all local and intermediate school districts.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Schiller

Robert E. Schiller
Superintendent of Public Instruction

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background Information	1
Homeless Child and Homeless Youth Definition	1
The Plight of Homeless Children and Youth	1
The Impact of Homelessness on Students	2
Educational Problems of Homeless Students	2
Achieving Educational Success for Homeless Students	3
The Role of the Michigan Department of Education	5
The Role of Local Educational Agencies	6

Background Information

Studies of the nation's homeless problem indicate that today's homelessness is the result of massive changes in industry, the permanent elimination of jobs, large decreases in low-income housing, high and steady increases in the cost of housing and rental units, drastic cuts in public assistance for low income people, an increase in long term unemployment, a lack of job training programs, eviction from permanent living conditions, deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and personal crises, such as domestic violence and the break up of families.

Homeless Child and Homeless Youth Definition:

A homeless child or homeless youth is one who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, resides in a temporary, supervised, privately or publicly owned institution or sleeps in a place not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation for a human being.

This definition includes runaway children and youth who have been abandoned or forced to leave home by their parents and who are living with friends or relatives because they lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.

The Plight of Homeless Children and Youth:

Homeless children and youth are living in shelters, abandoned buildings, automobiles, deer blinds and in other impoverished situations throughout Michigan. They are often exposed to hostile climates, violence, drug abuse, prostitution and mental illness. Additionally, homeless children and homeless youth will probably receive inadequate food and clothing.

Because of transient living conditions, homeless people are very difficult to count. However, in 1988 the Michigan Housing Coalition estimated that as many as 90,000 homeless people were living in Michigan. Thirty per cent of them consisted of families with at least one child. Since 1988, other studies indicate that the number of homeless families constitutes as much as half the total homeless population. In 1991, the Michigan Department of Education conducted an initial survey which concluded that there are 7,333 homeless children and youth living in Michigan.

The Impact of Homelessness on Students:

Psychological problems resulting from homelessness place homeless students at increased risk for developing anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, aggression, withdrawal, speech delays, inappropriate social interaction with adults and inadequate interaction with peers. Homeless children and youth may have physical problems that involve symptoms of exhaustion, poor health care with exposure to opportunistic illnesses, poor nutrition and deteriorating standards of personal hygiene.

Educational Problems of Homeless Students:

Homeless students are often moved from one shelter to another. Each transfer represents a loss of classroom instruction which contributes to academic under achievement, grade retention or a break in continuity of learning. The public school is the primary place where a homeless student will experience a safe, orderly, stable and secure learning environment.

The most common problems presented by homeless children and youth within the school environment are the following:

- Difficulty with language, math and motor skills
- Difficulty staying within the structure of rules
- Lack of concentration, daydreaming or inattentiveness.

- Problems with finishing or staying on tasks
- A negative self-image
- Unusually active, unresponsive or sad behavior
- Previous academic failure or below average performance
- Unstable attendance - truancy problems
- School phobic behavior
- Age-inappropriate behavior, such as pseudomaturity or thumb-sucking
- Previous suspension or expulsion
- Lack of parental support
- An unwillingness to discuss homelessness

Personal school expenses can also be impediments to learning, since the cost of breakfast, field trips, gym clothes, locker fees, lunch, certain school supplies and public transportation restrict homeless students from receiving equal educational opportunities.

Achieving Educational Success for Homeless Students:

School personnel must be aware that homeless families are the fastest growing population in the United States. Therefore, larger numbers of homeless students will enter school and present unique challenges that will require systematic restructuring to ensure educational success.

All public school districts are expected to enroll and educate school-age homeless children and youth. The following are suggestions that may provide assistance to local and intermediate school persons relative to the education of these youngsters:

- Review the McKinney Act and its educational provisions with staff and parents.

- Review, revise and adopt local policies and procedures to ensure that homeless children and homeless youth can enroll in school and receive a free and adequate education.

- Be prepared to do quick and informal assessments of academic needs of homeless students and maintain up-to-date records which can be transferred in a timely manner.

- Provide services to homeless students that are comparable to all other students such as compensatory education, vocational and bilingual education, education for the gifted, special education and school meal programs.

- Provide an instructional delivery system focused on individual diagnosis and prescriptive teaching.

- Designate a school person to act as a liaison between staff, homeless parents and youth, shelter and health care providers and the state coordinator of homeless programs.

- Incorporate federally funded breakfast and lunch programs.

- Develop an inservice component on the education of homeless students for school personnel.

- Provide evaluation, counseling procedures and other direct services for homeless students; make referrals.

- Solicit and utilize senior citizens, college students and other volunteers to assist teachers with remedial education and tutorial services.

- Establish before and after school programs to help with homework assignments.

- Develop an effective approach to managing the behavior of homeless students to avoid classroom disruption and integrate these students into the school community.

The Role of the Michigan Department of Education:

Title VII-B of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act was signed into law on November 29, 1990, to provide funding for services and programs that prevent the alarming effects of homelessness from impeding the education of children and youth. More specifically, to ensure that homeless children and youth in Michigan have access to a free and appropriate public school education, the McKinney Act requires the Department of Education to implement the following:

* Establish the Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Homeless Youth (Section 722(c)(2)).

* Review and revise all legislation, policies and procedures which impede the enrollment and educational success of homeless children and homeless youth (Section 721(c)(2)).

* Collect and report data regarding the number and location of homeless children and homeless youth (Section 722 (d)(1)).

* Adopt a state plan to establish comparable procedures for local and intermediate school boards to enroll and educate homeless children and homeless youth. Include procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes, provide training programs for school personnel, promote school meals, provide before and after school tutorial services and opportunities to resolve problems specific to educating homeless children and homeless youth (Section 722 (e)(1)(A-I)).

* Make grants available to local educational agencies to facilitate enrollment, attendance and educational success of homeless children and homeless youth; make grants

available to other nonsectarian facilities to adopt space and provide school supplies (Sections 723 (a)(1)(2) and (b)(2)(m)(n)).

* Coordinate interagency programs and activities with federal, state and local agencies to enhance effective implementation of the McKinney Act (Section 722 (d)(4)).

The Role of Local Educational Agencies:

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act requires local and intermediate boards of education to revise policies which act as barriers to the enrollment and educational success of homeless children and homeless youth. More specifically, the McKinney Act requires local and intermediate boards of education to:

* Review and revise local policies and procedures which impede the enrollment and educational success of homeless children and homeless youth (Section 721(c)(2)).

* Establish policies and procedures which address immunization requirements of the McKinney Act. (Suggestions: Request assistance from shelter care providers and personnel from Protective Services. Utilize community immunization programs and provide transportation to help homeless children receive needed vaccinations at the time of enrollment (Section 722(e)(9)).

* Continue the homeless child or youth in his or her school of origin for the remainder of the school year or enroll the youngster in the district where he or she currently resides, whichever is in the student's best interest (Section 722(e)(3)(A)).

- Consider the parent's recommendation when determining the student's best interest relative to resolving school placement issues. When a parent is unavailable, consider the student's recommendation or that of his or her representative (Section 722(e)(3)).

- Enroll homeless students in special classes on an emergency basis for up to thirty days, relative to the initial interview with the parent, shelter care provider, social worker or student. (Special Education Rules adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education in July, 1992).

- Provide transportation services to homeless children and homeless youth comparable to those offered to other students (Section 722(e)(5)).

- Take precautions to assure that homeless students are neither stigmatized nor isolated from other members of the student body (Section 722(e)(1)(I)).

Questions regarding implementation of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act may be directed to Ms. Gloria Y. Gordon, Michigan Department of Education, Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Homeless Youth, Post Office Box 30008, Lansing, Michigan 48909 or you may call (517) 373-6061.

Michigan Department of Education

Robert E. Schiller
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Eugene L. Cain
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Educational Equity
and Community Services

Gloria Y. Gordon
Educational Consultant
Office for the Education of
Homeless Children And Youth

Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Federal Law

The Michigan State Board of Education complies with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U. S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Michigan State Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Education.